AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS

1.   (currently amended) A method for substituting an anonymous Universal Unique Identifier (UUID) for a computer system's real UUID in order to disguise an identity of said computer system to an application requesting a UUID for said client computer system, said method comprising the steps of:

establishing a cloak bit for specifying whether to disguise said computer system's identity;

establishing a storage device in said computer system including a primary location, wherein a UUID stored in said primary location is used as a UUID for said computer system;

determining whether said cloak bit is set or cleared;

generating ~~said~~ an anonymous UUID in response to a determination that said cloak bit is set, wherein said anonymous UUID does not identify any particular computer system;

~~storing said anonymous UUID in said primary location within said storage device and~~ moving said real UUID to a secondary location within said storage device; and

providing said anonymous UUID in response to a request for said computer system's UUID.

2.   (canceled)

3.   (currently amended)   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

~~establishing a cloak bit for specifying whether to disguise said computer system's identity;~~

said computer system starting execution of said boot process;

determining whether said cloak bit is set during said execution of said boot process; and

in response to a determination that said cloak bit is set, moving said real UUID stored in said primary location to a secondary location in said storage device and storing said anonymous UUID in said primary location, wherein said identity of said computer system is disguised by utilizing said anonymous UUID as said client computer system's UUID.

4.   (original)   The method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of in response to a determination that said cloak bit is cleared, moving said real UUID from said

storage location to said primary location, wherein a true identity of said computer system is represented by utilizing said real UUID as said computer system's UUID.

5.   (original)   The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

an application program requesting said computer system's UUID; and

said computer system providing a UUID stored in said primary location to said application program in response to said request.

6.   (canceled)

7.   (canceled)

8.   (currently amended) A system for substituting an anonymous Universal Unique Identifier (UUID) for a computer system's real UUID in order to disguise an identity of said computer system to an application requesting a UUID for said client computer system, said computer system including a CPU, comprising:

a cloak bit for specifying whether to disguise said computer system's identity;

a storage device in said computer system including a primary location, wherein a UUID stored in said primary location is used as a UUID for said computer system;

means for determining whether said cloak bit is set or cleared;

said system means for generating said anonymous UUID in response to a determination that said cloak bit is set, wherein said anonymous UUID does not identify any particular computer system;

means for storing said anonymous UUID being stored in said primary location within said storage device and for moving said real UUID to a secondary location within said storage device; and

said system for providing said anonymous UUID in response to a request for said computer system's UUID.

9.   (canceled)

10.   (currently amended) The system according to claim 8, further comprising:

~~a cloak bit for specifying whether to disguise said computer system's identity;~~

~~said computer system~~ means for starting execution of said boot process;

means for determining whether said cloak bit is set during said execution of said boot process; and

in response to a determination that said cloak bit is set, ~~said system~~ means for moving said real UUID stored in said primary location to a secondary location in said storage device and storing said anonymous UUID in said primary location, wherein said identity of said computer system is disguised by utilizing said anonymous UUID as said client computer system's UUID.

11.   (currently amended) The system according to claim 10, further comprising in response to a determination that said cloak bit is cleared, ~~said system~~ means for moving said real UUID from said ~~storage~~ secondary location to said primary location, wherein a true identity of said computer system is represented by utilizing said real UUID as said computer system's UUID.

12.   (currently amended) The system according to claim 8, further comprising:

an application program for requesting said computer system's UUID; and

~~said computer system~~ means for providing a UUID stored in said primary location to said application program in response to said request.

13.   (canceled)

14.   (canceled)